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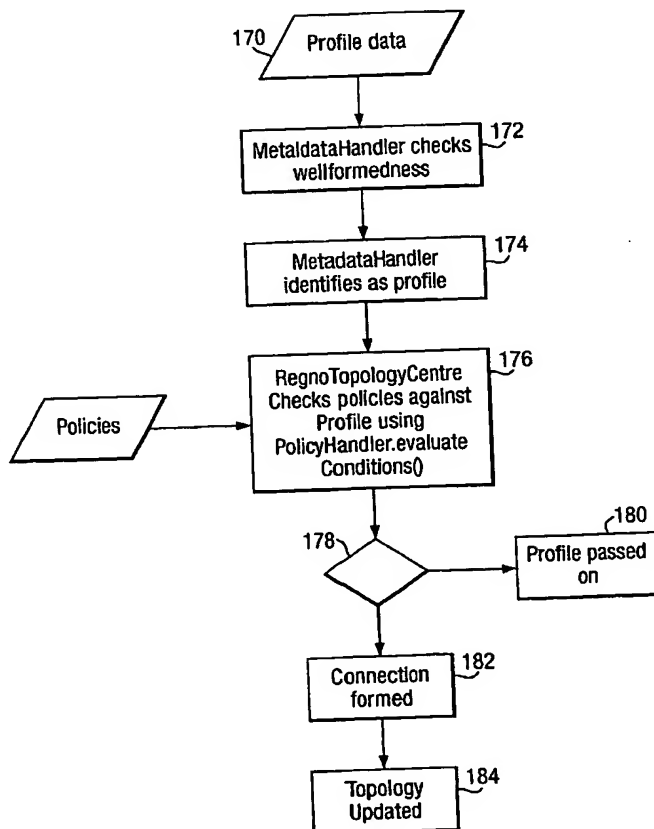
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(54) Title: DISTRIBUTED COMPUTER



(57) Abstract: A distributed computing network is disclosed, the membership of which is determined in accordance with policy data stored at existing member nodes. A node wishing to join the distributed computing network sends profile data indicating the resources it has available for shared computation to a member node. The member node compares the resources with the requirement indicated in the priority data. If the comparison indicates that the applicant node should join, then data indicating the topology of the distributed computing network is updated at the member node and created at the applicant node. This allows for the creation of a distributed computing network whose topology is well-suited to a given task, provided the policy properly reflects the requirements of that task.

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# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

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Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the International search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

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## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

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A	EP 1 026 587 A (NCR INT INC) 9 August 2000 (2000-08-09) column 5, line 30 - column 6, line 15; claim 1	1,11,18, 22,23
A	EP 1 043 658 A (BULL SA) 11 October 2000 (2000-10-11) the whole document	1,11,18, 22,23
A	WO 98/09402 A (RAFATJOO BAHMAN ; METRIX S A (LU); MUNK JAKOBSEN THOMAS (LU)) 5 March 1998 (1998-03-05) the whole document	1-23
A	EP 0 887 731 A (SUN MICROSYSTEMS INC) 30 December 1998 (1998-12-30) the whole document	1-23
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## C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
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